

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 1 January 2001

## **A Great Year for Wetlands in California: Governor Davis and Legislature Embrace Ambitious Investment and Policy Agenda**

**T**he year 2000 could arguably be considered the best year for California's wetlands in the past two decades. San Francisco Bay wetlands, in particular, fared well in the state's Fiscal Year 2000-2001 legislative agenda. Bay Area Audubon chapters and Audubon-California staff played

critical roles in moving wetlands appropriation and policy legislation through the California Legislature. And with strong leadership from Governor Gray Davis and several Bay Area state legislators, the following actions occurred:

### **FY 2000-2001 Investments**

The Governor and the Legislature appropriated tens of millions of dollars to acquire and restore San Francisco Bay wetlands:

#### **• Bel Marin Keys, Marin County**

This summer, San Francisco Bay restoration efforts received a boost when the California Water Board approved a \$16 million loan from its Clean Water Revolving Fund (SRF) to enable the state Coastal Conservancy to exercise a purchase option on 1600 acres of diked historic baylands in Marin County. Governor Davis provided \$6 million in dedicated funding in the state's FY 2000-2001 budget to repay the SRF acquisition loan. In addition, the FY 2000-2001 budget provides acquisition and restoration matching funds totaling \$10 million. Audubon is working with our partners in the funding community to secure sufficient matching funds so that the entire SRF loan amount may be retired.

#### **• AB 398 (Migden) Cargill Salt Ponds, San Francisco Bay**

As a lead party in the high powered negotiations regarding public acquisition of

## **Open Letter To Chapters**

**T**his letter is to introduce myself, and to inform you of recent developments within Audubon-California's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program. I'm Dan Cooper, a biologist with the National Audubon Society, working in Los Angeles. Recently, I have been asked to take over the IBA program in California from Bob Barnes, who will devote more time to issues in the Kern River Valley. A native of the Los Angeles area, I came to Audubon with over a decade of birding experience in the state, and have conducted fieldwork on birds throughout southern California.

Since California's IBA program began in 1996, over 60 IBA nominations have been received, which have resulted in nearly 50 sites being designated Global, Continental, or National IBAs. Chapter members spent long hours on the phone, gathering information from local experts and filling out nomination forms. Many of the sites are familiar to you, since they are also famous birding and bird research areas, including Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in Riverside County, the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, and Tule Lake/Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern California. All are well-defined, defensible properties with an active constituency of conservationists working together to ensure these

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# Field Trips Calendar

**Sunday, January 7,  
SCHOLLENBERGER MARSH,  
Petaluma.**

See December Gull for details. Leader: Jeffery Black (510) 526-7068.

**Sunday, January 7, STRYBING  
ARBORETUM.**

See February trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

**Wednesday, January 10,  
MINI-TRIP TO ARROWHEAD  
MARSH.**

See December Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie-Spoelman.

**Saturday, January 13, PALO  
ALTO BAYLANDS.**

See December Gull for details. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074. [murphsf@worldnet.att.net](mailto:murphsf@worldnet.att.net) (\*)

**Sunday, January 14, CRISSY  
FIELD, San Francisco.**

See December Gull for details. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. [ash@sfo.com](mailto:ash@sfo.com)

**Saturday, January 20,  
SANDHILL CRANES.**

California's most elegant dancers! If you enjoy bitter cold, dense fog and haunting bird sounds, this is your trip. Over 75 species in recent years, including Common Snipe, Tundra Swan, White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawk, and Loggerhead Shrike. Dress for cold. Bring lunch and drinks for this trip to the Delta. Limited spaces available. Call leader Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229 for reservations. (\*)

**Sunday, January 21, LAKE  
MERRITT, Oakland.**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range. This trip is especially recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Bring binocu-

lars, scope and field guide if you have them. Trip ends at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Zawaski (415) 621-2424 days; (510) 530-2427 eve. (\*)

**Sunday, January 28,  
WOODBIDGE ROAD  
ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE AND  
AREA, San Joaquin County.**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the park and ride lot on the east side of the intersection of I-5 and Hwy. 12, west of Lodi. The first planned stop will be the Lodi Sewer Ponds. This location is very birdy, and depending upon water levels, in some years, Pacific Golden Plover can be found. We will then caravan to the Woodbridge Road Ecological Area, where we should see Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans. The rest of the day will be determined by the leader on the day of the trip. Bring lunch. Trip will end by mid afternoon or sooner depending upon weather. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cold. Heavy rain cancels. Fog may make viewing difficult. Leader: Jim Rowoth (209) 462-7512. [TLALOC27@aol.com](mailto:TLALOC27@aol.com).

**Sunday, February 4,  
PANOCHÉ VALLEY.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. This trip traverses raptor habitat which usually produces Golden Eagle, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon, plus Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas and Vesper Sparrows. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before leaving Hollister, and carpool from the Bay Area if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Trip will end about 3 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Chris Carpenter (510) 569-9281 day, (510) 547-2201 eve.

**Sunday, February 4,  
STRYBING ARBORETUM.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln

Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

**Sunday, February 11,  
MOUNTAIN VIEW  
CEMETARY, Oakland.**

Meet at the front gate (5000 Piedmont Ave., near the intersection of Piedmont and Pleasant Valley) at 8:00 a.m. The area features three small ponds, wooded and open areas. Wintering land birds, ducks, raptors, kingfisher and green heron are possible. Some steep sections during 2-3 mile stroll almost entirely on paved surfaces. Trip ends around noon, heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anthony Fisher (510) 658-8769. [Loveisant@aol.com](mailto:Loveisant@aol.com).

**Wednesday, February 14,  
MINI-TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS  
REGIONAL PARK.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot by the Visitors' Center at the end of the road. From the East Bay take 1-880 south to Newark and turn right at Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Continue west and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile and turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow the signs to Coyote Hills. We will be looking for three species of teal and other wintering waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 & Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Saturday, February 17,  
ARROWHEAD MARSH,  
Alameda County.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the fishing pier at the end of the road. Take Hwy 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger Rd. exit.

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# Mary Louise Rosegay

October 26, 1919 - October 26, 2000

Mary Louise Rosegay was one of Golden Gate Audubon Society's most dedicated and active members. Mary Louise was our Recording Secretary in 1971 she then took the duty of First Vice President and was chapter President from 1975 through 1976. An avid life-long birder, Mary Louise led many wonderful field trips for our chapter.

When her husband, Harold, was transferred to the Presidio, Mary Louise quickly became the authority on the birds of the military base. She wrote *An Annotated List of the Birds of the Presidio of San Francisco*, (1966 through 1988) and also a birding guide to *The Presidio of San Francisco* that was published in the Gull. She later revised the article and it was published in the Sequoia Audubon Society's *San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching*.

Her annual field trips in the Presidio were a must for birders wanting to see a Hooded Oriole in San Francisco. I still have a vivid memory of seeing my life Red Crossbill on one of her Presidio trips.

Mary Louise was always eager to help young birdwatchers. She took youngsters like Josiah Clark, Lee Elias, David Holway, Ivan Samuals, and me under her wing. She seemed to know everyone, and if she didn't she would introduce herself and make any visiting birder feel at home.

Mary Louise was always first on my list of people to call when I found a rare bird. On one occasion I found a

Northern Waterthrush in Golden Gate Park; as usual she said she would drop everything and come right out. A short time after my call her metallic green Beetle pulled into the parking lot with Mary Louise, her son Whitie, and someone I hadn't expected - Roger Tory Peterson! Mary Louise knew Peterson from her days at Cornell University where she was one of the first female graduates. On another occasion we found a Kentucky Warbler in a dense willow thicket in the Marin Headlands. We could hear the bird singing but Mary Louise could not get a look at it. She was not absolutely sure about the song and did not want to count the bird unless she was certain of the bird's identification. We stood there frustrated for some time and then she spotted a birder near by. "David" she called, "it's great to see you! Listen can you identify that song?" The warbler sang. "Oh yea," the young man said "that's a Kentucky Warbler!" David turned out to be David Sibley, who has just published the National Audubon Society's *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. From the old master to the young phenom, Mary Louise was liked and respected by all.

Like so many people, I've had so many wonderful experiences with Mary Louise it is hard to remember them all. But every day with Mary Louise was a good day, it did not matter if there were rare birds around, to be out in the

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## Joe Morlan's Spring 2001 Birding Classes in San Francisco

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting February 6, 7, and 8, 2001. All classes meet 7-9:15 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." He is also coordinator of the recorded "Northern California Birdbox" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is "A Field Guide to Birds of North America," third edition, by the National Geographic Society.

**Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts February 6 and ends March 20; Part B (EA105) starts March 27 and ends May 15.

**Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status

of North American water birds, including shorebirds and jaegers. Part A (EA110) starts February 7 and ends March 21; Part B (EA115) starts March 28 and ends May 16.

**Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American land birds including sparrows, longspurs, buntings and grosbeaks. Part A (EA120) starts February 8 and ends March 22; Part B (EA125) starts March 29 and ends May 17.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$100 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call (415) 561-1860.

**Joseph Morlan**, Pacifica, CA 94044: <mailto:jmorlan@ccsf.org>

**California Birding; Mystery Birds:**

<http://fog.ccsf.org/~jmorlan/>

**California Bird Records Committee:**

<http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/cbrc/>

## GGAS 2001 Elections

The Nominating Committee of the GGAS Board of Directors is already planning for the next GGAS elections to be held by mail ballot due May 17, 2001, before our Annual Meeting scheduled for late June. The Committee will nominate candidates for officers and directors in a report to the membership at the regular membership meeting on March 15, 2001 and in the April issue of The Gull.

The GGAS Bylaws provide for members to take part in the nomination process in two ways: First, they may submit suggested nominations to the Nominating Committee. And second, they may nominate candidates in addition to those proposed by the Committee. Any such additional nomination may be made if the nominee agrees to serve and his or her candidacy is supported by signatures of at least ten GGAS members in good standing. Any such additional nomination must be received by the chair of the Nominating Committee at least three months before the annual election, that is, by February 22, 2001. [GGAS Bylaws, Art. VI, Sec. 3]

Members may send suggestions to any member of the Nominating Committee, and may submit additional nominations to the Acting Chair, in each case, in care of the GGAS office in Berkeley.

Under the GGAS Bylaws, the president serves for two years and other officers for one year. (The term of current President Leslie Lethridge runs to June 2002.) And the GGAS Board of Directors includes (1) the elected officers, (2) up to six directors elected by the membership for staggered 3-year terms (our East and West Bay Directors), (3) one "at-large" director (if designated by the Board), and (4) chairs of standing committees (appointed by the President with the approval of a majority of the elected officers and directors).

The officer and director positions to be filled in the May 2001 elections are listed below. We encourage GGAS members to submit their candidate suggestions to the Nominating Committee as soon as possible, but no later than February 22, 2001.

### Nominating Committee

Nancy Smith, Acting Chair (and West Bay Director); Leslie Lethridge (President and Director); Arthur Feinstein (GGAS Executive Director); Dana Kokubun (GGAS Program Director)

### Open positions for the May 2001 Elections

President-Elect and First Vice President *	East Bay Director (2001-2004)
Second Vice President	East Bay Director (2001-2003) **
Recording Secretary	West Bay Director (2001-2004)
Corresponding Secretary	
Treasurer	

\*The Nom. Committee may propose one person for both these offices.

\*\*The Board filled a vacancy until the 2001 election, with 2 yrs. then remaining.

## Alice Hoch's Birding Classes

Alice Hoch is continuing her birding field classes through the Fremont Adult School. In these classes you will observe and learn about the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each Tuesday morning the class will visit a different birding spot. The class is designed for both

beginning and experienced birders.

Alice Hoch has been teaching bird-watching for the adult school since 1975. She has been a birder for 39 years and is a longtime member of Ohlone Audubon Society.

The class will meet on six Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The next session begins January 9,

2001 and ends February 13, 2001. After that, there will be another session from March 6 through April 10, 2001. Class size is limited, so register early. Be prepared to bird watch at the first class meeting. For more information call the adult school at 791-5841 or Alice at 657-0475.

## Donations

### Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)

Eleanor Briccetti

### Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Harold Kirker

### Gifts (to \$99)

Joyce and James Schnobrich

### In Memorium

Nicholas and Sue Ellen Barbaro, Richard Stallcup, Phyllis and Kenneth Brockman, Dorothy Tobkin, Priscilla and Joe Ishizaki, Frances Petrocelli and Dr. Charles Wilson, Dr. Philip Weinstein, Gloria Markowitz, and Sarah Flanagan in memory of **Mary Louise Rosegay**. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vejby in memory of **Lee Baker**. Jan Andersen in memory of **MaryJane MacDwyer**

### Special Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge a gift of \$3,000 from **Ms. Mary Bachman** and **Mr. William Downing** (Mary Bachman and William Downing Fund) for the **Save the Quail Campaign**.

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.





## Field Trip Reports

**B**erkeley Aquatic Park, 11/8/00, Anna Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoelman: 23 participants and 50 species, including 50 Redhead, 2 Barrow's Goldeneye and 3 Red-breasted Merganser. Strybing Arboretum, 11/5/00, Allan Ridley, Helen McKenna, Harry Fuller: 50 participants in two groups, 44 species, including White-throated Sparrow, 24 Fox Sparrows and a Peregrine Falcon. Strybing Arboretum, 10/1/00, Allan Ridley, Helen McKenna: 48 participants, 30 species. The highlight was an immature Cooper's Hawk that attempted to prey upon and was driven away by a grey squirrel. The angry rodent actually went to a second tree to attack the perched hawk! Coastal San Francisco, 9/4/00, Harry Fuller: 28 participants, 60 species, including Wandering Tattler, Willow Flycatcher, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and close views of Elegant Terns at the new Crissy lagoon.

### A Thank You to Our Field Trip Leaders

A new year is unfolding and with it the promise of all the unknown joys and challenges that lie ahead. Here is another chance to enjoy the cycle of seasons, another opportunity to contribute to the health of the planet in whatever simple way we can. I think that most of us care deeply about the natural world and would do more if we could to keep it vibrant. Around here we focus a great deal on birds and we should because the roots of the Audubon Society are in bird conservation. Healthy bird

(and human) populations depend on healthy ecosystems and we can be proud that our chapter works diligently and positively toward that end.

Another wonderful service GGAS provides is a veritable feast of field trips throughout the year. The hundreds of you that participate every month know of what I speak and those of you who have not yet enjoyed the offerings are strongly encouraged to do so. These trips are made possible by a group of talented and knowledgeable leaders who share their expertise freely with all participants. The generosity of our trip leaders has a great deal to do with the vitality of our chapter.

The following have lead trips for GGAS since January 2000

Leon Abrams, Peter Allen, Stefanie Arthur, George Bing, Bill Bixby, Jeffrey Black, Herb Brandt, Ken Burton, Chris Carpenter, Nancy Conzett, Lewis Cooper, Hugh Cotter, Mark Eaton, Lillian Fujii, Harry Fuller, David George, Bob Hogan, Alan Hopkins, Carole Kiser, Robin Leong, Bob Lewis, Ron Lindeman, Rence Margolin, Steve Margolin, Helen McKenna, Dan Murphy, Joan Murphy, George Peyton, Lina Prairie, Robin Pulich, Cathy Purchis, Dave Quady, David Rice, Allan Ridley, Jim Rowoth, Rusty Scalf, Don Schmoldt, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Malcolm Sproul, Anna Wilcox, and Joan Zawaski.

Thank you all, we wish you good birding!  
Anthony Fisher



## Turning Out for the Terns



Lum Elementary school fourth graders visited the wildlife refuge at the former base on Nov. 17 to learn about local fauna and help preserve the

endangered California least tern colony's habitat on the abandoned runways of the former Alameda Naval Air Station. Amy Mayeno (above) of the Golden Gate Audubon Society shows Kenny Zhon, Jonathon Abodo and Zachary Reynolds how to use a hoe to remove weeds. Local students are helping remove all plants from the runways before the terns migrate to Alameda in April for nesting

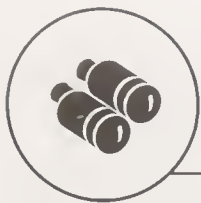
season. Terns typically nest in the open along beaches and work together to sound alarms to announce approaching predators. Plants make good hiding places for predators such as feral cats, harriers and hawks. Docent Cathy Hubbard (below) shows the students and parents a brown pelican flying low over the bay. More docents are needed at the refuge.

For information, call (510) 769-0155.

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Photos by Kathy Baker





## Some Tips on Birding

**W**ith the annual Audubon Christmas Count coming up, I realized that I haven't spent much time "in the field" lately. My spouse and I ran away for a month to Manhattan where I dodged a lot of Rock Doves but spent only one morning scouting Central Park. At least the Christmas count group I lead is in my own back yard, so to speak. But unusual birds show up even in Orinda!

I recently read a couple of articles about birding which made a lot of sense to me. Kenn Kaufman focused on defining a "good birder." I loved his point that if you ENJOY birding, you are already a good birder because you are aware of birds and are observing them. From that point on, it's only in the details. That is not to say that you should ignore field marks and simply generalize about a specific bird. This is especially true if you are doing a count since it's always a thrill to find and identify a new bird. But don't forget to enjoy! Actually, my group counts all sorts of critters along with birds.

If you suffer from "serious bird syndrome" consider if you are spoiling someone else's fun. Are you losing your perspective and becoming intense, too scientific and determined to properly identify every single bird you see in the air, on the ground or at a feeder? If you are accustomed to glancing at your feeders throughout the day, when that rare bird alights, surely you will notice that it is not a

House Finch. Then you can home in on the new bird on the block. When a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak alit on my sunflower feeder one summer, there was not a doubt that it was unusual!

Whenever I have the pleasure of the company of a birding novice, my own enthusiasm is sparked by his excitement in identifying a bird. The thrill of discovery is contagious and so begins another birder's life list. The more eyes we have out there, the better our chances of noticing changes in the environment, various bird habitats, the numbers of different bird species, and other important things which affect birds.

Pete Dunne, a "famous" writer on bird topics, made another important point in an article on identifying birds. He had dazzled a neophyte birder by calling out the name of a hawk without even lifting his binoculars. It's something most birders do unconsciously if they are birding in familiar territory. The use of probability is a vital piece of artillery in a birder's arsenal of identification techniques.

Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds lists eight points to consider when identifying a bird: size, shape, field marks, behavior, flight, vocalization, geographic distribution, and seasonal occurrence. Added together, you should be able to correctly nail that bird's species. Be careful with

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## Open Letter To Chapters

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areas stay attractive and vital to birds.

A network of IBAs can become a cornerstone of Audubon's conservation activities throughout California. Aside from showcasing bird-friendly land use decisions, their identification will help guide conservation activities, both at the chapter and national levels of Audubon, as well as those of other groups and agencies. Over the next few months, I will expand our IBA program to eventually include 150-200 sites that are representative of the diverse habitats in the state. This process will culminate in a website, similar to one launched in 1998 by New York State Audubon

(<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/ny/iba/index.html>).

The certification of IBAs had been overseen by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the U.S. arm of Birdlife International, which, until recently worked closely with several states to identify IBAs. Since the ABC is no longer devoting attention to the program, Audubon-California will assume sole responsibility for the identification of new IBAs, and will devote more attention to coordinating con-

servation activities among them where possible. Future IBAs will be identified using criteria already developed by the New York State IBA Program, nearly identical to those developed by Bob Barnes and a team of advisors a couple years ago.

Over the next year, I will be meeting with experts on California bird distribution to plot the locations of future California IBAs, including David Fix, Don Roberson, and Mike San Miguel. The next step will be connecting sites with interested individuals - monitors and defenders of the IBAs. Please feel free to contact me directly for more information on nominating IBAs anywhere in California, or if you are involved in groups already working as stewards of particular sites.

I would like to thank Bob Barnes and Kathy Gilbert of Audubon-California, and the Audubon members and others who have already contributed their energy to this effort. I look forward to developing a first-rate IBA program in California. I can be reached at (523) 254-0252 or email at [dcooper1@pacbell.com](mailto:dcooper1@pacbell.com).

Dan Cooper  
Audubon-California, Los Angeles



# News from Audubon Canyon Ranch

—By Betsy Stafford

**A**CR's four biologists often engage our volunteers in a search for spring during the darkest days of winter. They point out hills greening after the long half-year drought. They urge us to poke through forest duff and marvel at the progress of decomposition, hurried on by the wet and relative warmth of our coastal California climate. Greg DeNevers, our Resident Biologist at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, revels at mushrooms popping up, bay trees in bloom in November, and new leaves on the gooseberry.

At our three Preserves we watch moisture-loving critters emerge from the dry estivating months. If we're lucky, we glimpse Great Pacific Salamanders wandering through the damp redwood forest. Docents in training have to sidestep around newts, who are emerging from their underground homes to travel through the wetness of their own "spring."

It's no surprise to you, our Audubon friends, that our Winter Bird Counts tally up numerous avian visitors, who've come from afar to enjoy our winter/spring.

It's a wonderful time for all of us to poke around for signs of spring, and ACR invites you to join us on one of these occasions:

**Bird Count at Cypress Grove Preserve:** If you can help with our winter bird count (or become an ACR field observer or habitat restoration volunteer), please call the CGP office at 415-663-8230.

**Trail Days at Bouverie Preserve:** January 8, February 5, April 9, May 7. 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Spend a morning with friends of this beautiful Preserve, working with our Land Steward and learning about land management. Bring a pair of work gloves and a lunch. We'll provide drinks and lots of pats on the back. RSVP to (707) 938-4554.

**Guided Nature Walks at Bouverie Preserve:** Saturday mornings, January 13, 27; February 24; March 24; April 7, 21; May 5, 12. Experience the beauty and rich history of this 500-acre Preserve, open to the public only on these Saturdays. Please call (707) 938-4554 for a lottery form.

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## A Great Year for Wetlands...

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the Cargill Salt Company's South Bay salt ponds, Audubon helped craft legislation that will benefit wetlands acquisition and restoration efforts Baywide. AB 398 (Migden) establishes the San Francisco Baylands Restoration Program Account in the State Wildlife Restoration Fund and appropriates General Fund revenues to the Account for the purpose of acquiring and restoring San Francisco Bay wetlands and habitat which may include the Cargill Salt property. Governor Davis approved \$25 million in funding as "sufficient to show the State's good faith in working with the federal government to make a joint purchase of [the Cargill Salt] historic wetlands upon completion of an independent appraisal."

### • Bay Area Conservancy Program

The state's FY 2000-2001 budget provides \$7.5 million to the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. The Program, in turn, distributes these funds through a competitive granting process that enables community-based nonprofits to secure nonstate matching funds for baylands acquisition and restoration projects. The Program encourages and rewards public-private partnerships focused on Bay habitat restoration. Local Audubon chapters can utilize these funds for chapter priority acquisition and restoration projects.

### Improvements in Wetlands Policy: New Legislation Sets Tone for New Century

The Governor and the Legislature also approved a suite of wetlands policy bills that will improve our ability to manage Bay wetlands to benefit birds and other wildlife.

### • AB 642 (Lempert) Wetlands Mitigation Banking

This bill requires the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), on or before January 1, 2002, to establish a data base of all existing and operating wetlands mitigation banks in California that sell credits to the public, and to provide a report to the Legislature with a description and the status of each existing wetlands mitigation bank site in operation as of January 1, 2001, and each bank site approved thereafter. This legislation enables the State to better determine the degree to which wetlands mitigation banks actually achieve their habitat functions goals.

### • AB 2286 (Davis & Lempert) Wetlands Inventory

This bill requires the Resources Agency to update all of the state's existing wetlands inventory resources in order to prepare a restoration, management, and acquisition study to accomplish specified goals, including statewide identification of wetlands restoration and enhancement opportunities. The completed inventory will demonstrate the importance of the San Francisco Bay's wetlands to the State's overall wetlands restoration goals.

### • AB 954 (Aroner) Wildlife Protection in Baylands

This bill requires the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), when considering whether a project provides maximum feasible public access in areas of sensitive habitat, to consult with DFG, and using the best available scientific evidence, determine whether the access is compatible with wildlife protection in the Bay. The legislation puts wildlife protection on an equal footing with public access.

*Editor's note: This summary was compiled by Mike Sellors, Program Coordinator, San Francisco Baylands Program.*



The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology recently alerted birdwatchers that this winter should be a good one to find invaders of mountain species at lower elevations, as well as other species occurring far outside of their normal ranges. Irruptions of mountain species were definitely observed in N. California during this period, with Cassin's Finches and Williamson's Sapsucker being found near sea level, for example. Although there were only 4 CBRC review species reported, observers enjoyed an abundance of the more common winter species such as Varied and Hermit Thrushes and the usual visiting waterfowl.

## Loons to Ducks.

A Pacific Loon was reported far inland at Clear Lake, LAK, Nov. 10 (JW), a 9<sup>th</sup> county record. A Laysan Albatross was spotted on a Nov. 5 PT in SM waters (DLSh). 15 Black-footed Albatross were found on a Nov. 5 SCZ PT and one other was in SM waters (DLSh). Two more of that species were at the Fairhaven jetty, HUM, Nov. 14 (Elias Elias). Two Pink-footed Shearwaters were observed on the Nov. 5 PT, one each in SM and SCZ waters (DLSh). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported in both locations on that date (DLSh), and a Least Storm-Petrel was also found on the Nov. 5 SM PT (DLSh).

Unusual away from the ocean were two Pelagic Cormorants in the channel near Laney College, Oakland, ALA, Nov. 24 (CM). Reports of coastal White-fronted Geese were numerous, with birds seen in HUM, MRN, SF, and SCZ counties. Flyovers of these geese included 18 birds seen over Mt. Davidson, SF, Nov. 3 (PS), and 33 over Capitola, SCZ, Nov. 23 (DSu), while 13 rested near Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 4 (DM, ME). Snow Geese were seen in HUM, MRN, SF, and SCZ counties with the high count being a flock of over 400 Snow and a few

Ross's geese at Limantour Beach, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 8 (RS). Single Ross's Geese were at Harkins Slough, SCZ, Nov. 12 (SG), at Manila, HUM, Nov. 12–22 (EE), at Pebble Beach, MTY, Nov. 19 (MRPBA), and at Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Nov. 25–26 (DG), joined there by 8 others Nov. 27 (MRPBA).

There were 4 reports of individual Tundra Swans at coastal locations in HUM, SON, and SCZ counties, with one bird actually landing on the ocean near West Cliff Drive, SCZ, Nov. 16 (JG). Beatrice, HUM, had up to 22 Tundra Swans visiting the coast there Nov. 5–12 (ABB). A few reports of individual Eurasian Wigeons were received: from Seven Mile Rd., BUT, Nov. 4 (MS), Truckee, NEV, Nov. 5 (John Sterling), Redwood Shores Sewage Facility, SM, Nov. 9–23 (PJM, MD), and Salmon Creek, SON, Nov. 25 (RL). A representative of the Asian race of the Green-winged Teal was found at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Nov. 2 (RS). One 1<sup>st</sup> winter male Tufted Duck was near Benicia State Recreation Area, SOL, Nov. 8–9 (CL, RMu). A single Harlequin Duck was at Paradise Marina, MRN, Nov. 5 (DMA), and as many as 14 were off Glass Beach, MEN, Nov. 13–25 (DT). Uncommon inland was a Surf Scoter at Crowley Lake, MON, ~Nov. 20 (AD). At least 15 Long-tailed Ducks (aka Oldsquaws) were found during the period. One was near Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON, Nov. 2–11 (RSch, RM, RS, KG), 2 were at Requa, HUM, Nov. 9 (EE), one was at Fairhaven, HUM, Nov. 12 (ABB), two were at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 16 (RS), 1–3 were at Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, Nov. 19–27 (JWil, MPRBA), 3 were at S. Lake Tahoe, ED, Nov. 19 (OU), and one more was found at King Salmon, HUM, Nov. 14–23 (ABB).

## Raptors to Skimmers.

Unusual for the location was a Bald Eagle at Burlingame Lagoon, SM,

~Nov. 11 (PJM). Two Northern Goshawk reports came from MRN, one over the Marin Headlands, MRN, Nov. 1 (TB), and the other at Mt. Tamalpais, MRN, Nov. 18 (JC, AR). Eight single rough-legged Hawks were seen over HUM, SM, SCZ, MON, and SON counties, 2 were near Browning Rd., YOL, Nov. 24 (AR), and 6 were observed at Manila, HUM, Nov. 14 (EE). A juvenile Golden Eagle flew over Glen Canyon Park, SF, Nov. 3 (PS), and another young member of the species was at MLK Regional Shoreline, ALA, Nov. 8 (CP).

An American Golden-Plover was at Thornton Rd., SJ, Nov. 19 (RR, BO). Up to 5 Pacific Golden-Plovers were on the Spaletta Plateau, PRNS, MRN, Oct. 31–Nov. 16 (FB, RS), 2 were near Pigeon Pt., SM, Nov. 5 (AE), and one was in Schoellenberger Park, SON, Nov. 6 (RL). November was a great month for finding Rock Sandpipers, with one at Crescent City, DN, Nov. 4 (ABB), 3–4 at Fairhaven, HUM, Nov. 10–14 (ABB, EE), 1–4 at MacKerricher SP, MEN, Nov. 12–25 (DT), and still another near Owl Canyon, Bodega, SON, Nov. 25 (RL). A Stilt Sandpiper was seen at the Merced NWR, MER, Nov. 16 (PJM, AD). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) first reported at the end of October, continued at L. Cunningham, SCL, Nov. 18 (CL). Individual Glaucous Gulls were reported at Spreckles Lake/Cliff House/Sutro Baths, SF, Nov. 10–12 (CL, SD, MOB), near West Cliff Drive, SCZ, Nov. 16 (JG), and at the Sausalito, MRN, Ferry Pier, Nov. 18 (IS). Eleven Black Skimmers remained on their usual island at Charleston Slough, SCL, Nov. 19 (HF).

## Sapsuckers to Crossbills.

Very unusual for SF, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> city record, was a Williamson's Sapsucker in the Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, Nov. 25–28, and possibly as early as Nov. 18 (SG, SRv, KMc, MOB). A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen at Beatrice, HUM, Nov. 25 (ABB). A Pileated



Woodpecker continues to be reported from Redwood RP, ALA, Nov. 7–20 (RC, ML). A Least Flycatcher was found at Rancho del Oso, SCZ, Nov. 27 (RW). **A Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*), a species normally residing in S. Arizona and Mexico, was observed near the archery range in GGP, SF, Nov. 1–11 (KMc, RC, CL, MOB). This bird is a very rare late fall and winter visitor (Small, 1994). Tropical Kingbirds were in the news again this month, with 1–2 at Arcata, HUM, Nov. 2–4 (ABB), one at Harkins Slough, MTY, Nov. 3–9 (EL, JPo, RW, MOB) one at Sunset Beach, SCZ, Nov. 2 (DSu), 1–2 at Crescent City, DN, Nov. 3 (ABB), one at Pacific Grove, MTY, Nov. 12 (MPRBA), and another at Ft. Mason, SF, Nov. 17–26 (MMc, CL, MOB). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were spotted at Paicines Reservoir, SBT, Nov. 12 (FT, MPRBA). Clark's Nutcrackers were reported from Mt. St. Helena, NAP, Nov. 4–22 (AW, MP, DN, MOB), and another was seen at Big Basin Redwoods SP, SCZ, Nov. 9 (DSu). Unusual for Coyote Hills RP, ALA, Nov. 5 were two Bank Swallows (Christy Nelson). The first reported Canyon Wren for SCZ county for over 10 years was found at Olive springs Quarry, SCZ, Nov. 19–22 (fide DSu). An American Dipper was at Pilarcitos Creek, Crystal Springs, SM, Nov. 18 (DM). Except for Palm Warblers, visiting Wood Warbler reports were skimpy this period compared with the last several months and with last year at this time (see Chart).

Single Summer Tanagers were in Menlo Park, SM, Nov. 1 (CN), at Grant Ranch Park, SCL, Nov. 9 (BR), and at the Farallones, ~Nov. 13, PRBO. Individual Clay-colored Sparrows appeared at Pacific Grove, MTY, Nov. 12 (MPRBA), at Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 11 (MMcK), and at a feeder in Capitola, Nov. 24 (fide DSu). Three Vesper Sparrows were in their usual spot on Peachtree Valley Rd., MTY, Nov. 5 (MPRBA), and another was at Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley, ALA, Nov. 3 (DW). A Lark Bunting was seen on Pass Rd., SUT, Oct. 31 (JS). Four Swamp Sparrows were found: one each at L. Merced, SF, Nov. 3–4 (JW) and at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY,

Nov. 18 (MPRBA), and 2 more near Gazos Creek Rd., SM, Nov. 24 (RSTh). Eleven White-throated Sparrows were reported over ALA, CC, HUM, MRN, SF, and SCZ counties, with 3 of them in GGP, SF, Nov. 12 (ASH), and 3 others in Capitola, SCZ, Nov. 20 (DSu). The Farallones, SF, hosted a Harris's Sparrow ~Nov. 13 (PRBO).

A McCown's Longspur was found on Browning Rd., COL, Nov. 18–24 (TE, AR), and another was near the intersection of Rds. 16 and 90B, YOL, Nov. 19 (TE). Two or 3 Lapland Longspurs were near Gonzales, MTY, Nov. 5–18 (CH, BH, RF, MOB), another was on Brewer Rd., YOL, Nov. 18 (TE), and another was reported at the aforementioned YOL county intersection Nov. 19 (TE). Two or 3 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were near Gonzales, MTY, Nov. 5–18 (CH, BH, RF, MOB), another was at the Tahoe Keys Marina, ED, Nov. 5 (JS), and another joined its sister species near that oft-reported YOL site Nov. 19 (TE).

Two **Snow Buntings** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) were found during the period. The first was seen by a ranger at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, SM, Nov. 15–21 (fide PJM, AH), and the second was at the Farallones ~Nov. 13 (PRBO). This bird is an Arctic breeder, with a normal winter range across the Northern U.S. Most of our records are of single birds coming to the Farallones (Small, 1994). Two Bobolinks came to Beatrice, HUM, Nov. 4 (ABB). The 1st Farallon Island and 1st SF county record of a **Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) occurred Nov. 21 (PRBO). This smaller version of the Great-tailed Grackle is exceedingly rare in N. California (Small, 1994). A Baltimore Oriole was reported at Bodega Bay, SON, Nov. 5–7 (RM, FB). Four single "irrupting" Cassin's Finches were recorded: at Half Moon Bay High School, SM, Nov. 5 (RSTh), on Mt. St. Helena, NAP, Nov. 5–12 (AW, MP, MOB), at a feeder in the Berkeley/Oakland hills, ALA, then at the Claremont Hotel, Nov. 11–15 (KL), and at Mt. Tamalpais, MRN, Nov. 18 (JC, AR). Finally, a Red Crossbill, another representative mountain species, was found on Mt. Tamalpais, MRN, Nov. 18 (JC, AR).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Tennessee Warbler

Nov. 2–7	Bodega Bay, SON	CC, RM, FB
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### Nashville Warbler

Dec. 12	Carmel R., MTY	AK, BMc, JG,
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Dec. 19	Berkeley, ALA	HG
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### Black-throated Blue Warbler

Nov. 12	Rock Creek, MON	PJM, fide DP, JP
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### Blackburnian Warbler

Nov. 3	Crescent City, DN	ABB
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### Palm Warbler

Nov. 1	Pacifica, SM	OU
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Nov. 5	Beatrice, HUM	ABB
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Nov. 5	Rancho del Oso, SCZ	MPRBA
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Nov. 11	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	DSu
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~Nov. 13	Farallones, SF	PRBO
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Nov. 19	L. Merced, SF	RFe
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Nov. 20	Capitola, SCZ	DSu
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Nov. 20	Salinas R. Mouth, MTY	TG
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Nov. 21	Princeton Harbor, SM	JMS
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**Abbreviations for Observers:** ABB, Arcata Bird Box; TB, Tim Behr; FB, Florence Bennett; RC, Roy Carlson; JC, Josiah Clark; CC, Chris Corbin; SD, Stephen Davies; AD, Al DeMartini; MD, Matthew Dodder; TE, Todd Easterla; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; RF, Rob Fowler; HF, Harry Fuller; JG, James Gilroy; SG, Steve Glover; DG, Diane Goodboe; HG, Helen Green; TG, Tom Grey; KG, Kevin Guset; AH, Artie Hawk; BH, Bill Hill; CH, Craig Hohenberger; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; AK, Anna Kopitov; RL, Rick Lebadour; EL, Earl Lebow; CL, Calvin Lou; KL, Kay Loughman; ML, Martha Lowe; DMA, Dave MacKenzie; MOB, Many Observers; MMc, Mac McCormick; MMcK, Mark McKeller; KMc, Kevin McKereghan; BMc, Barry McLaughlin; RM, Richard Merriss; PJM, Peter J. Metropulos; CM, Cheryl Millett; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; JM, Joe Morlan; DM, Dan Murphy; RMu, Roger Muscat; CN, Christy Nelson; DN, Dan Nelson; BO, Bill Oliver; DP, Debbie Parker; JP, Jim Parker; MP, Mike Parmeter; CP, Courtenay Peddle; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; JPo, Jeff Poklen; RR, Richard Redmond; BR, Bob Reiling; SRv, Steve Rovell; AR, Andrew Rush; IS, Ivan Samuels; PS, Paul Saraceni; RSch, Roger Schumann; MS, Mike Scramm; DLSh, Debra Love Shearwater; JMS, Jean-Marie Spoelman; RS, Rich Stallcup; JS, Sterling John; DSu, David Suddjian; RT, Ron Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; FT, Francis Toldi; UO, Unknown Observer; AW, Alan White; DW, Denise Wight; JW, Jay Withgott; RVV, Roger Wolfe.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; BUT, Butte; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; ED, El Dorado; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MON, Mono; MTY, Monterey; NAP, Napa; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; NEV, Nevada; PT, Pelagic Trip; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; SBT, San Benito; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SUT, Sutter; YOL, Yolo.



# Great Backyard Bird Count Needs Everyone, Everywhere To Count For The Birds

**I**t is well known that many bird species are showing population declines due to habitat loss or other human impacts. Now, people of all ages and backgrounds can help monitor bird populations—including several that are showing declines—by participating in the 4th annual Great Backyard Bird Count February, February 16 – 19, 2001.

A project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with funding provided in part by Wild Birds Unlimited and Ford Motor Company, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) combines high-tech web tools with “citizen-science” observations of birds. The GBBC asks families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days. Participants enter their observations at BirdSource at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org), a user-friendly, state-of-the-art web site developed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab.

Begun in 1998, the GBBC has engaged more than 100,000 people of all ages and skill levels in the effort to keep common birds common. “We’re asking everyone, everywhere in North America to take a few minutes to tell us what birds they see on any or all of the count days,” says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “By tracking changes in bird distribution and abundance over time, such a vast database can serve as the SOS signal for species that may be in trouble.”

This is especially important for species that are already showing population declines. GBBC 2001 will put the spotlight on quail, a frequent backyard visitor, familiar to many outdoor enthusiasts in the U.S. and Canada. “While most people recognize quail when they see them, few people are aware that some species, including Northern Bobwhite in the East and Scaled Quail in the Southwest, are experiencing severe population declines,” says Frank Gill, National Audubon’s senior vice president for science. “Because quail are relatively easy to identify, even the casual observer can play an important role in helping them by participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count.”

Quail are flagship representatives of brushland/shrub habitat. Loss of this habitat and the results of some land management practices are the primary reasons for quail declines. In suburban areas, cat predation of these ground-dwelling birds is also of serious concern. Visitors to the GBBC web site can learn more about all six North American quail species.

Audubon and the Cornell Lab are also asking participants to pay special attention to several species of woodpecker, including the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Northern Flicker, which are also showing signs of serious population decreases. The web site will include several features relating to these species in need of special atten-

tion.

New this year will be the GBBC’s debut in several Latin American locations, allowing the benefits of the count to reach into a new region and affording a fascinating glimpse of tropical backyards and the birds found in them. This experiment is a first step toward one of BirdSource’s ultimate goals – hemisphere-wide monitoring of bird populations and the educational opportunities that go with these projects.

Because the GBBC charts findings in real time, scientists have already made connections between weather patterns and bird movements. For the last few years, American Robins appeared farther north than typically expected, in areas where snow cover was scant or nonexistent. Such a correlation may be suggestive of global warming or other broad-scale weather changes. This year’s GBBC will again collect information about snow depth.

The GBBC has also helped track movements of winter finches that typically remain in Canada or the extreme northern U.S. but that move farther south some winters during irruptions. The count showed “southerly” concentrations of Common Redpolls in the northeast and across the Great Lakes and northern Rockies. “It’s thought that some of these species, including Common Redpolls, irrupt biennially, as a result of a lack of seeds in what is typically their year-round ranges,” says the Cornell Lab’s Fitzpatrick. “But much of this phenomenon remains a mystery that participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count can help us solve.”

To participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, count the highest number of each bird species seen at one time (to ensure the birds are not counted more than once) and keep track of the amount of time spent counting. Log on to Birdsource at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) and click on the appropriate state or province for a checklist of the most frequently reported birds in that region.

Results are updated hourly in the form of animated maps and colorful graphs for all to view. Participants will be able to see almost immediately how their observations fit into the continent-wide perspective. Findings from previous years are also available at the site.

The GBBC web site also includes useful information to make participation easy and enjoyable. There is a vocabulary section, bird-watching and bird-feeding tips, bird vocalizations, and more, including information about House Finch eye disease. Educators will find the bibliography and geography sections especially handy, as well as the suggestions for conducting the count with groups of kids. For those tired of winter and ready for spring, there will be tips about planning and preparing for the spring bird garden.

*Continues on page 11*



## Mary Louise ...

*Continued from page 3*

fresh air with Mary Louise was reward enough.

Mary Louise made us aware of the Presidio's great habitat value, in 1988 she wrote: It is certainly obvious that the Presidio is a haven for birds within the city, making up, as it does, one of the largest open areas within the city limits... There is a program underway to replant some, if not all, of the aging forest trees, and some consideration is given to preserving wild flowers. I notice, however, that the understandings reached with the higher levels of command do not always reach down to the lower levels of workman on the "clean-up" and "cut-up" shifts. The slick, clean, clear-cut look seems to be preferred by the military, and conservationists must be grateful for even the glimmerings of cooperation... I watched spring wildflowers being mowed along the Ecology Trail, and the workers were absolutely adamant against the protestations of visitors. Also, a great deal of natural undergrowth has been cut away and trees removed or cut back, when it was not necessary for the beauty of the park. Such excesses are devastating to the bird life, and we can only hope that those in authority will eventually see the terrible errors of their ways. Certainly, Mary Louise's influence can be seen in the habitat restoration taking place in the Presidio today.

Her husband, Harold, wrote:

*The day before she died, we noticed a small, snow white parakeet in the magnolia trees in our front yard. It sang for a few minutes, hopping amongst the branches. Then it took flight, disappearing into the bright blue sky. We suspect it was carrying her off.*

Mary Louise Rosegay died of complications of Alzheimer's disease on her 81st birthday. She was the model of what a great birder, naturalist, and friend, should be. Those of us who knew her will never forget her.

Alan Hopkins

## Great Backyard Bird Count...

*Continued from page 10*

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is a terrific way for individuals, families, schools and community groups to contribute to a better understanding of birds," says National Audubon's Gill. "In return, they learn more about birds in the process. I can't think of a better way to spend a little time on a late-winter day."

Instructions for participating can be found at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) by clicking on "Great Backyard Bird Count." There's no fee or registration. Those who would like to participate but aren't online can try their local library. Many Wild Birds Unlimited locations also accept reports. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of

Ornithology at 800/ 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473); 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at 212/979-3083; 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

Founded in 1905, and with over 550,000 members and supporters in 530 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

## Field Trips Calendar ...

*Continued from page 2*

Drive west to Doolittle Drive and turn right. Turn right at the first traffic signal onto Swan Way. Turn left after a block and take the dirt road to the parking lot at the end. Possible on this trip: thousands of shorebirds and ducks, raptors, Clapper Rail and more. Bring scope if you have one. Beginners and all levels of birders welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Be prepared to saunter at least 1.5 miles. Trip expected to end by 1:30. Leader: Courtenay Peddle (510) 532-8911 (do not call after 8 p.m.) [capeddle@there.net](mailto:capeddle@there.net).

**Trips marked with a (\$)** go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (\*).

**Problems, etc:** If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. [Loveisant@aol.com](mailto:Loveisant@aol.com).

## Backyard Birder...

*Continued from page 6*

"size" because it is a relative measurement; but practice will help you here. Field marks, behavior, flight, and vocalization are all clues but you don't always have all of those items displayed for you. Experience tells us that those darned birds seldom sit still and often have the nerve to fly off, or they are partly hidden behind a leaf or a branch. However, knowing what specific birds are the most likely to be in the area you are scouting gives you the probability for what that bird might be. By the process of elimination that is probably precisely what it is.

How do you develop this proficiency? Awareness (again). Become intimate with what birds populate your area. Go birding and study every bird you see (and don't forget to enjoy). You will become adept at correctly identifying the common birds from which you can pick out the less common ones in the flock. Naturally this takes time, but it's also fun. All too soon it becomes a hobby and then a passion. Face it, you're hooked!



## January Meeting

### Birding Online

**A**re you itching to go birding but the rain outside is coming down so hard even the ducks have left? Do you need directions to find the Magellanic Plover during your trip to Patagonia? Would you like to see what bird tours are available to Italy? How about getting a quality photo of the Gang-gang Cockatoo, or an audio recording of the Variegated Antpitta? Want a critical review of the new Sibley guide? You can do all of these things without ever leaving home.

Long time GGAS member and foreign tour leader, Chris Carpenter will

be the featured speaker at our program on January 18th at the Randall Museum. He'll show you how to go birding by computer, and where to get the latest information on local, national and international birds, birding clubs, bird tours, photos of exotic birds and sound recordings. Chris plans to show us all how easy and enjoyable it can be to travel on the internet to heighten our birding experience. He'll also show many of the marvelous digital photos of birds from around the world that he's been able to obtain online.

**Thursday, January 18, 2001**  
**7:00 p.m. Refreshments/Door Opens**  
**7:30 p.m. Program**  
**The Randall Museum**

**199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt Way, which is accessible from either 14th St. or 17th St.) — San Francisco**

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As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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